

There has been something said of dissatisfaction among the people of Boston with Mr. Webster's speech. The Boston Daily Advertiser—whose means of information cannot be doubted, and whose care in stating facts is almost proverbial—notifies these reports and says:

"We rejoice to be able to say this morning, that, after extended inquiry, we find the feeling of the leading men and minds of this city to be quite opposite to that described as 'dissatisfaction.' So far as we can learn the Boston public fully support Mr. Webster; not with an enthusiastic blind adulation, but with a calm belief that he has placed a veridical expression in a position in which it can be and must be fairly settled, and a desire that, under his control, on something like this basis, it must be settled."

The following views of the same subject we are glad to find in the Boston Courier:

"If there be a man among us who dissents from the principles of Mr. Webster's speech, we should like to see him answer it. We should be happy to know in what other shape this question, as a great national question, can be placed than the shape in which Mr. Webster has presented it. What other argument, as a constitutional argument, can be made upon the great points at issue, than the argument Mr. Webster has made? We in the North all dislike slavery, it is true, and all desire to get rid of it; but can slavery be dealt with constitutionally in any other mode than the one he has pointed out? With those persons who would resort to extra constitutional means we have nothing to say."

"There may be different opinions on minor points embraced in Mr. Webster's speech, but there can be but one opinion on this point, that, as a constitutional argument to be applied to the settlement of the existing dispute between the North and South, it is impregnable, unassailable, irrefutable; it is the true argument, the whole argument, and the only argument. There may be difficulties in the way of applying it practically to all parts of the matter under controversy. Who does not expect difficulties in the settlement of a question combining so many delicate and complicated relations? Whichever way we turn we must encounter difficulties. Here is the constitutional remedy: if that will not put an end to the strife nothing will. Let any man show us a sounder principle or a safer guide than those now before us, and we shall cheerfully adopt them. Till then we must earnestly hope that Mr. Webster's truly national and statesmanlike efforts for the settlement of this great fraternal quarrel in the American Union, will be seconded by the people of the United States in such a manner as will secure the domestic peace of the country on the most lasting foundations."

From the subjoined article, which we copy from a St. Louis paper, and from other information corroborating it, it does not seem probable that the State of Missouri is likely to take any part in the proposed Nashville Convention:

THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION.—The resolutions of the late General Assembly, from which Col. Benton has appealed to the people, pledge the State of Missouri to co-operate with the South in all measures for resisting the encroachments of the North. We understand that to be the program of the Nashville Convention. Do the anti-Benton men in this State intend to be represented in that Convention? If they were in earnest in passing the resolutions and intend to act consistently—if they mean to show their faith by their works—we do not perceive how they are to avoid taking part in the deliberations of this Convention. Missouri is the only one of no meeting for the appointment of delegates, and all the organs of that branch of the "progressives" are as silent as the tomb in relation to the Convention.

What means this portentous silence? Has old Bullion frightened them from "their property," or has reflection convinced them that they have gone a little too far in pledging Missouri to a movement designed to disunion? If the people of Missouri intend to disunion that this Convention is designed to deliberate seriously upon the value of the Union, and that one of its purposes is either openly or covertly to favor a Southern Confederacy, he will be a bold politician who shall have the nerve to defend it before the people of this State. What say the anti-Benton branch of the Democracy to this Convention? Speak out, gentlemen, and give us your views.

REAL ESTATE.—Large property in New York and its vicinity continues to advance in value. The New York Express says:

The sale of the real estate of the late Thos. H. Smith, consisting of some six to eight hundred lots, located principally in the improved parts of Brooklyn and New York, was commenced on Tuesday, continued yesterday, and will go on, it is probable, for several days to come. On the first day of the sale about \$130,000 in value was disposed of, located in Brooklyn, near the river, between the Navy Yard and Fulton Ferry.

Yesterday the sale comprised lots above the Dry Dock, in the Eleventh Ward. This large estate, which will realize nearly half a million of dollars, has been in litigation, we believe, for the last ten years; but, having lately been settled, it is now brought into the market.

During the lifetime of Mr. Smith, nearly the whole of this great estate was located out of town, and portions of it were even sunk into lots of but little value; now the whole property is in thickly settled portions of the two great cities, and a sale brings together a large number of bidders, and the Merchants' Exchange presents a scene rarely if ever equalled in the wild speculations of 1836. The crowd of bidders is so great that it is very difficult to get near enough to the auctioneer to make a bid.

The character of the buyers is worth remarking—Germans and Irish, who take a large lot—yet no yet no speculative has appeared on the ground. Prices being beyond their mark, most of the sales are to actual settlers, who want to occupy at once. This is a gratifying circumstance. The sales thus far have exceeded the expectations of the heirs, and establish the fact of a decided and continued rise in real estate.

The emigration to California, in spite of all the reports about disease, poverty, and death at the gold mines, is prodigious. During the last week, two thousand persons or more have left the city of New York for San Francisco. The Georgia, the other day, took out some 700; the Empire City, on Friday, 336; and the Cherokee 277, besides others that have gone by sailing vessels round the Horn. The Crescent City, from New Orleans, took out about 300.

The departure of the two splendid steamers, Empire City and Cherokee, for Chagres, on Friday, attracted several thousand spectators to pier two and three, North River. At a few minutes past 3, the Empire City fired a gun, and then moved slowly from the dock, amid enthusiastic cheering from the passengers on board and the crowd on the wharf, and as she passed down the river she was signalled by the ladies from the promenade of Castle Garden, who waved numerous handkerchiefs in the breeze. She had nearly reached the Narrows when the Cherokee left her moorings, and proceeded on her course, accompanied by similar demonstrations of rejoicing, and wishes of a speedy and safe journey.—Post.

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL RAILROAD.—The Fayetteville (N. C.) Observer says: "A telegraphic dispatch from Raleigh on Saturday gave us the gratifying intelligence that the million of dollars of individual subscriptions was fully made up on Thursday night last, at the Convention at Hillsborough. We learn that when it was found that \$90,000 were wanted, Mr. Bird, President of the Petersburg Railroad, took \$40,000 for citizens of that town, and Judge Cameron, Gov. Morehead, George Mordecai, and William Boyden, Esq., took the balance."

TRICKING.—A correspondent of the New York Literary World, writing from Boston, relates the following incident:

"The Rev. Dr. BETTENS was once preaching and lecturing to large audiences. A week or two since he attended the congregation at the Park street church, by the administration of a reproof to those literary pests, the 'improvers' of hymns, who are to sacred poetry what Nahum Tate was to Shakespeare. At the close of his sermon he gave out Cowper's hymn in five stanzas, commencing—

"There is fountain filling with blood."

"He finished reading it, stopping rather suddenly, and exclaimed in a clear, distinct voice, 'this last stanza is not as Cowper wrote it! As he wrote it, it runs thus,' upon which he laid down the book and repeated from memory. 'I should like to know,' he continued, 'who has had the presumption to alter Cowper's poetry?' The choir will sing only the first four stanzas of the hymn."

A WEIGHTY JURY.—A court was greatly amused at Charleston (S. C.) the other day, by the assembling, one after another, of a full jury. The respective weights of fifteen of the jurors were ascertained, and the aggregate was 3,354 pounds, an average of 223.6—15—the minimum being 300 and the maximum 900 pounds.

The latest papers from Texas furnish the following interesting items:

Mr. JOHN N. ROSS has just returned from a trip up the Trinity river, as agent for the Government to examine the country and ascertain the most eligible point of shipment for stores and munitions for the supply of several military posts in Northern Texas. He has given the preference to Pine Bluff.

The steamers Jack Hays and Brownville have ascended the Trinity for six hundred and fifty miles, and brought back encouraging intelligence from that country. Their freight down consisted of 600 bales of cotton belonging to planters who have heretofore always hauled their crops either to Houston or Shreveport, a distance of about two hundred miles to either place. Pine Bluff, the point to which the boats found the navigation quite free from all obstruction, is in the centre of a very rich country, which is now settling up with an unexampled rapidity. The neighboring counties lie generally between the parallels of 31 and 32 degrees of latitude, and are peculiarly adapted to the production of cotton, which, though generally a short crop in other parts of the country the past season, has there been a full crop, without injury from the worm or too much rain. The many advantages that country offers to large planters appear now to be better known than heretofore, and the emigration is consequently pouring in from the crossings on Red river in such vast numbers (according to the accounts given) as would seem almost incredible but for the confirmation of so many witnesses. It is estimated that from twelve to fifteen thousand emigrants have settled in the counties referred to, but chiefly in Mercer's county, since the first of last September. The Jews are well known to the Indians. Mr. Bruce, who brings this intelligence, was prevented by the Indians from returning by the El Paso road, and came down on the Mexican side and crossed at Eagle Pass. He represents the ravages of the Indians to have been dreadful through the whole course of his route on the Mexican side.

A Government express arrived at San Antonio from El Paso on the 16th ultimo, bringing news of more outrages committed by the Apaches and Camanches. David Torrey had been killed a little east of Presidio; seven or eight Americans had been massacred on the Gila.

A band of Indians attacked the party which Judge Robinson was travelling, between the Pecos and El Paso; the Judge and his family escaped without injury, and had arrived at El Paso, but they are indebted entirely to the prompt and humane conduct of Capt. Johns, of the army, who was moving down the same route as the Indians, and who, by his timely appearance, prevented the Indians from returning by the El Paso road, and came down on the Mexican side and crossed at Eagle Pass. He represents the ravages of the Indians to have been dreadful through the whole course of his route on the Mexican side.

Mr. NICHOLS, formerly a Washington correspondent of a New York paper, was supposed to be killed. In San Antonio, on the 18th ultimo, a Mexican named Marcelino Martinez, was shot by another Mexican.

Mr. WILLIAM L. DORTCH (says the State Gazette) was killed in Hays county on the 22d ultimo, by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of C. Durham. Both gentlemen were hunting when the accident occurred. Mr. Dortch was a native of Mecklenburg county, Va., and had recently arrived in Western Texas, with the intention of making it his permanent residence.

UNION MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA.

A large meeting of the "Friends of the Union for the sake of the Union," residing in the First Congressional district of Pennsylvania, was held in Southwark (Philadelphia) on Monday last week. FRANCIS DIAMOND, Esq. presided, and on taking the chair made an eloquent address explanatory of the objects of the meeting. Gen. PETER SKEIN SMITH then submitted a series of resolutions, which he prefaced with some patriotic remarks, expressive of his attachment to the Union. JOHN SYNNY JONES and GEORGE W. KNIGHT, Esqs. also addressed the meeting. The resolutions (of which we copy the most important) were unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned with three hearty cheers for the Union.

Resolved, That, regarding as inviolable the compromises of the constitution, and conceiving it just to respect as well the rights of the South as of the North, we, as Pennsylvanians, however opposed to the extension of slavery to territory now free, are in favor of leaving the people in the Territories to form republican State Governments, while the fee simple and mineral wealth of the Territories remains vested equally in the people of the whole Union, North and South.

Resolved, That the Union of the States is the ark of our political covenant, the life-blood of American liberty, of which we are all equally entitled to share, and that we will maintain it throughout the world. And the people of "the Keystone," appealing to the patriotism of all, proclaim, as with the arm and seal of one man. The Union, one and inseparable, now and forever; it must and shall be preserved! Those whom the Constitution has joined together let no man put asunder!

Resolved, That, as citizens of this glorious confederacy, we regard with the deepest solicitude the present crisis at Washington, and invoke the Supreme Ruler of Nations to infuse into the public councils the same spirit of wisdom, fraternal attachment, and mutual concession that influenced the deliberations of the framers of the Constitution. "Let there be strife between us, but let us be brethren."

Resolved, That the statesmen in Congress, of either party, who, in this hour of fiery trial, offer up sectional divisions and party differences a willing sacrifice on the altar of the Union to preserve the Union, are eminently entitled to the admiration and gratitude of the sovereign people.

Resolved, That we, as citizens of the common country, having one and the same destiny, we look to the Senate of the United States to propose the basis of an amicable adjustment of the vexed question, that shall scatter to the winds the chimeras and forebodings of dissolution now agitating the Union, come from whatever quarter they may.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this mass meeting, the admission of new States into the Union on the basis of rights is republican, and is sanctioned by the constitution and by precedent.

HEAVY DAMAGES FOR RAILROAD INJURIES.—In the Circuit Court, at Albany, on Wednesday last, in the case of James Collins vs. the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad Company, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff of eleven thousand dollars damages.

From the testimony in the case, says the report of the case in the Albany Journal, "it appears that, on the morning of the third of November, 1846, the defendant sent two trains of cars west, the first of which said train left Albany about fifteen minutes before the other. That the plaintiff took passage in the first said train. After they had proceeded some ten miles from the city some of the machinery became so much disarranged that the engineer stopped the train to fix it. When the train stopped some of the passengers, among them the plaintiff, saw several persons run back from the train, and the waving of hands as if to prevent the approach of some person or thing. The plaintiff then left his seat in the car, went to the other end, passed out of the door on to the platform. At that moment the train from Albany, which left fifteen minutes after, came up with so much force that the platform was demolished, and the last car in the first train was thrown from the track. At the time of the collision the plaintiff's foot was caught and crushed so as to disable him for life; he was otherwise injured. After the accident he was carried to Schenectady, where medical aid was procured, and all that could be done by the defendants or their agents to relieve his situation was done as soon as possible. The plaintiff claimed damages on the ground of carelessness in the management of the two trains. In answer thereto, the defendants proved that the machines were perfect, or so much so that they were entirely safe; that the grade was up; that the defendants endeavored to prevent the collision by an effort to reverse the motion of the engine and use of the brakes. That the plaintiff, by the rule of the road, had no business to be on the platform, and that he had admitted to the President of the defendants that, if he had kept his seat in the car, he would not have been hurt; that he was not alarmed, but went out on the platform to see what was the matter with the engine."

ICE.—The Harlem railroad is now bringing down large quantities of the purest ice from the Croton pond, about fifty miles from New York city. It is about a foot thick, and as the pond contains several hundred acres, it will make up for the short supply otherwise.

A distressing accident, as we learn, occurred at Pt. Pleasant (Va.) on Saturday last. Two gentlemen, one a son of the late Gen. B. B. Smith, and the other a Representative in Congress from the fourteenth district, we believe, and a young lady, had been taking an excursion in a skiff and were returning, and when near Pt. Pleasant the skiff was capsized by the swell of a steamboat. Gen. B. B.'s son was drowned, and also a faithful negro, who plunged into the river to rescue the drowning persons. The other gentleman and the young lady were saved. A sister of Mr. B. B.'s, who was on the shore, was only restrained from plunging in by being forcibly held by some bystanders.—Wheeling Gazette.

SINGULAR LUMINOUS APPEARANCE.—Captain Purkin, arrived this morning from Porto Cabello, reports that on the 12th February, in latitude 14° 10' and longitude 64° 58', at 5 o'clock P. M., he observed a luminous appearance in the heavens resembling a large comet of fire. It appeared in the West, moving eastward, rather slowly, and was in eight or a little more than a minute. It appeared to travel about two degrees high, and during its continuance the heavens were illumined with a brightness nearly equal to that of noon-day. When disappearing it broke into a thousand fragments.

[New York Com. Adv.]

FROM THE BOSTON TRANSCRIPT.

RATHER A BROAD HOAX.—There are some popular notions too absurd for grave confutation; and it is the only appropriate weapon with which to perforate them. Such was our opinion on seeing in the Washington Union some time last summer a serious editorial article, charging upon the WIGGS and certain members of the Cabinet of President TAYLOR the design of converting our present system of government into a monarchy! We immediately thought of our old and esteemed friend, "Peeping Tom," of Hull; and imagining ourselves in his company in that old look at Crawfish Cove, where the Hullions were wont to congregate at low water, we dreamed a dream of "Skipper Mudge and his bark Nancy," which finally took the form of a letter, and was published. It was about the time that the newspapers were filled with stories of the Haytian Emperor and the Mosquito King; and those personages very naturally figured in our dream, coupled with the alarming prognostics which the Union had uttered in regard to monarchism in this country. The letter, which was the result of all these alarming coincidences and fancies, may be found on the last page of to-day's paper.

Much to our surprise the whole of this "stuff, such as dreams are made of," has been gravely copied in the London Times, as bona fide history. The chief fault to be found with the letter, on perusing it, is that the burlesque is too broad and obvious. But the result would seem to show that there were gudeons who could not pass it by. We must let Mr. KENDALL tell the rest of the story, in his editorial correspondence to the New Orleans Picayune:

PARIS, JAN. 7, 1850.—I was much amused, two or three weeks since, at the manner in which the London Times has been "sold," by republishing, with all seriousness, a letter from a person who I imagine must be no other than the famous Hull correspondent of the Boston Courier. (A slight mistake.) This letter announced the arrival at Hull, Massachusetts, of the smack Nancy, skipper Mudge, from Honduras, and gave a full account of an interview between the skipper and his Majesty the King of Mosquito. The dress of the latter, what there was of it, was minutely described, together with the circumstance of his receiving the skipper drunk, seated on a barrel marked Monongahela. The dress in question, in which his Majesty Mudge received the republican Mudge, consisted, all told, of a cocked hat, and a pair of gaiters—a touch, it is true, above the Georgia summer costume of a shirt collar and a pair of spurs, but still rather scanty for royalty to receive company in.

As this letter was republished among news items, and without comment of any kind, there can be no doubt that the Times man honestly took every line of it for law and gospel truth. But perhaps the most amusing part of the joke is the fact that some friend of the Mosquito King, taking umbrage at the liberty taken with the character and costume of his Majesty of Bluefields, comes out in the Times with a flat contradiction of the statement of skipper Mudge, in which he calls his story a "fabrication of falsehoods." He does not doubt the existence of the smack Nancy, nor that of skipper Mudge, not in the least; he only questions the veracity of the latter. But perhaps it may be better to allow the Times correspondent to blow off his indignation steam in his own way. Here is his communication to the editor of the great London paper:

"I observe, in your paper of the 22d inst., a quotation from an American paper, which is likely to mislead some of your readers with reference to the King of the Mosquitoes. It is there asserted that the skipper of the smack Nancy had just returned from Honduras, and had had an interview with the King of Mosquito, who, in uniform, consisted only of a cocked hat, a waist, and gaiters; that though not more than twenty years of age he was rather intemperate, seated on a whiskey cask, and concluding with a few facetious remarks as to his Majesty's suite. I imagine, sir, that this quotation must have been inadvertently permitted a place in your valuable paper, as your frequent remarks on the Mosquito question show that you have at all times access to correct information from that quarter, and you must consequently be well aware that this Yankee article is a fabrication of falsehoods. Until the early part of 1848 the little King resided with, and was educated by her Britannic Majesty's late Consul-General in that territory, and his accomplished lady at Bluefields. Since that time he has resided with Dr. Greene, her Britannic Majesty's Vice Consul at Bluefields, and at Grey Town, Mosquito, without having been at Honduras, where Skipper Mudge states he had his interview. The King is about eighteen years of age, but his extremely delicate appearance and diminutive size make him appear not more than fifteen. His dress and manners are quite English, and his deportment gentlemanly. I am confident his Majesty is not more likely to have received Skipper Mudge in the light and airy costume described by him, than is Prince Albert to receive the Archbishop of Canterbury in such scanty habiliments. English is the only language spoken perfectly by the King, yet the Skipper asserts that a one-eyed drummer or a gentleman fiercer could be an interpreter. Either Skipper Mudge must have returned from his 'first voyage' resolved to relate some of the wonderful sights seen by him, or 'who go down on the great waters,' and invented this tale, or he must have been imposed upon by the residents of Honduras, as it is evident he has never seen his Majesty. You may perhaps consider this contradiction of Skipper Mudge's assertions worthy a corner in your paper."

Can any thing be more ludicrously serious than the whole tenor of this communication? The honest indignation with which the correspondent takes up the cudgel in behalf of the personal appearance, dress, and habits of his friend the King of Mosquito, the perfect confidence he has that he would not receive the Yankee captain in the costume, position, and situation described, and the grave and solemn earnestness with which he proceeds to rebut and disprove the statement of Skipper Mudge, would induce the wag who perpetrated the hoax to split his sides with laughter. Of the two, although the editor of the Times was the most essentially "sold" by this piece of Yankee wit, yet I think that the correspondent who undertakes to correct him has been worse taken in.

THE SEA SERPENT AT THE SOUTH.

FROM THE SAVANNAH REPUBLICAN OF MARCH 12.

A remarkable marine monster was seen by Capt. BLANKENSHIRE, of the William Seabrook, and his passengers, on the last trip of the steamer from Charleston to this city. When the steamer was coming down Port Royal Sound, at about six P. M. on Sunday, some six or seven miles inside the bar, several objects were described about a mile distant, which were at first supposed to be flocks of ducks. An examination by the glass, however, revealed several lumps or elevations, which had an undulatory or changing motion. The steamer was then directed towards this object, which lay near the point of land separating Beaufort from Broad river. The water was so shoal as the steamer went on that it was found necessary to cast the lead; but, when within forty or fifty feet of the monster, the sounding was four fathoms. While in this position Capt. Blankenshire and his passengers had a very good view of the creature, whose size and appearance were such as to inspire some of the passengers with alarm and apprehension. The monster was lying in the arc of a circle, his head parting the water by a gentle upward motion. No eyes nor mouth were visible, as the head was not elevated; but the head itself, which appeared to be flattened, is stated to be some ten feet long, and from six to seven feet wide. From the head, for a distance of some thirty feet, the body was depressed beneath the water; but at this distance a hump or elevation appeared, and another twenty-five feet from the last. A distinctly round appearance was observed, and the greatest diameter is stated at some seven or eight feet. The boat approached the monster in such a manner as nearly to form a chord to the arc described by it, which circumstance gave a good standard of judgment as to its length. The concurrent testimony on this point is that it was not less than 120 feet long, and probably not more than 140 feet. The noise made by arresting the motion of the boat, or the fact of its approach, caused the serpent (or whatever it must be called) to lower itself in the water and disappear. Before this a greater part of the body was easily seen and examined, the depth of it depressed a little below the surface. Its disappearance, the entire length descending at once, caused a sensible ripple on the surface. The steamer now left the spot, but the creature was again seen to rise and present a similar appearance a short time after the steamer moved off.

Such are the particulars, as far as we have been able to glean them from the testimony of several persons on board. We should have added that the color appeared to be of deep glossy brown, in which one passenger thought he detected a tinge of something like a deep slate color.

FROM OUR EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 13, 1850.

That the revision of the Colonial system of the British empire will be the great business of the session there is no doubt; that so momentous a subject can be adjusted without such contrariety of views, and much clashing of opinion, is too much to expect. That something must be done every one admits; what that something is, is, scarcely any one ventures to assert. Lord JOHN RUSSELL has, however, broken ground upon the subject; and, in a very able and temperate speech, has given a pretty clear indication of the course which Ministers intend to propose. With the general principles enunciated by Lord JOHN RUSSELL, it is impossible to quarrel. In the main, they are almost all we could wish. He upholds the independence and self-government of the colonies, and the most perfect assimilation of colonial institutions to those of the mother country. We hope that the theory which he has so satisfactorily laid down will, when its details are submitted to the House, be found to be really practicable. We think that the successful working of such a theory will eventually in Great Britain becoming literally the "mother of nations." Our colonies, as they are at present managed, are among the best customers we have for the produce of our looms and mines, as will be seen by the annexed table, which we have carefully gathered from the returns of the Board of Trade; and in another column of this table, we have shown how important a customer we have in the United States. Our reason for making this statement will be evident before we have done with the subject. The following table relates to the year 1849. British manufactures were, during the year 1849, exported to the colonies, to the United States, and to all other places as follows:

Description.	To the Colonies.	To the United States.	To all other places.
Cotton yarns, twist, and thread.	25,070,000	2,243,100	122,270,400
Cotton goods.	391,871,000	89,597,000	811,778,700
Cotton manufactures and quilts.	75,300	22,230	1,232,956,700
Cotton cloths, broad, and narrow.	390,000	277,300	29,119
Cotton hosiery, gloves, handkerchiefs, &c.	241,000	868,500	707,800
Cotton goods, unmanufactured.	39,000	79,300	39,900
Linen, British and Irish.	302,500	190,500	36,997,000
Linen, British and Irish.	9,130,000	11,683,300	77,666,000
Woolen and worsted yarns.	28,500	142,000	11,134,300
Woolen and worsted goods.	465,000	3,833,000	6,540,500
Woolen and worsted goods, and silk and worsted manufactures.	2,062,500	2,062,500	6,540,500
Silk, and all kinds.	309,000	1,826,200	1,826,200

The importance of the colonies, as consumers of British manufactures, is strongly shown by this table. They take nearly one-third of the cotton goods; more than one-fifth of the hosiery; about one-ninth of the linen; more than one-eighth of the woollens; one-seventh of the silk goods; and one-third of the metals exported. The United States take about one-fourteenth of the cotton goods; four-fifths of the mixed cotton and linen cloths; four-ninths of the linens; one-half of the woollens; one-quarter of the silk; and one-sixth of the metals—together, they take nearly one-half of all these various articles exported by Great Britain; and it is worthy of notice that the only items in the foregoing table in which this proportion does not nearly obtain, are those of cotton and woollen yarns; articles of the least value, and yielding the least profit to the British artisan and exporter. We by no means place the United States and the existing British colonies in the same category; but we think the present policy of the mother country will have a direct tendency to place her colonies in positions approximating to that of the United States; and that the day is not very distant when the principal ones will take their stations in the list of free and independent nations, proving vigorous offshoots from the parent plant, and the best friends and best customers of the mother country.

The British dependencies may be divided into three classes: military stations, settlements or plantations, and colonies. In the first class must be placed Heligoland, Bermuda, St. Helena, Malta, Gibraltar, &c. These places are not in any sense whatever colonies. They are fortified and occupied by the military and naval forces of Great Britain, upon grounds of policy which, whether right or wrong, have nothing to do with the colonial question.

Again, what we call settlements or plantations are countries which have come into our possession by conquest or by treaty, in which the great mass of the population are native inhabitants of the soil; in which the British, although few in number compared with the natives, are the dominant race, are possessed of the Government, and are frequently the proprietors of the land. In many of our plantations the whole native population were recently slaves; in almost all of them our own race has been prevented, by the physical circumstances of the country, from increasing, except by emigration, and from becoming the actual rulers of the soil, and, therefore, from supplanting the original inhabitants. In this class are the West Indies, Ceylon, the Mauritius, &c.

A "true colony of England," we think, a community of Englishmen, formed either by original settlement or descent; emigrants and their descendants, who have carried with them, or inherited from education a knowledge of, and a devotion to, at least, the theory of the liberties and privileges which belonged to them as Englishmen, when they or their fathers lived among us. Such are the colonies of Australia, Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand. Such is Canada, although a great part of its population is composed of foreigners; but foreigners who have long been our naturalized fellow subjects; who have long, in theory, been amalgamated with English settlers, and who are capable of enjoying practically free institutions. The Cape of Good Hope has, until quite lately, partaken more of the character of a plantation than of a colony; but the great unanimity which its inhabitants have recently displayed, and their courage and determination in repelling what they considered an endeavor to injure the moral character of their community, most certainly entitle them to be esteemed a true colony of England, and to be governed as such.

It may be quite true that Ceylon is badly governed, and that Jamaica has sufficient ground for discontent; but we think no reflective man will say that the same form of government is applicable to these places and to New South Wales. There are a multitude of elements which enter into the problem of governing a settlement or plantation, which do not exist in the case of a colony. We apprehend that the present attention of the Government will be limited to the true colonies of the North American Provinces, the Cape of Good Hope, and the Australian territories. The great object aimed at, we think, so far as we can gather from parliamentary proceedings, is the establishment of the principle that the liberty, of which Englishmen are a little given to boast, is not a geographical distinction, but a personal right—a right which they ought not to be deprived of, because they removed from one part of the empire to another. Now, we suppose

that the principal part of these cherished rights and liberties is an immunity from all laws and all taxes, except those to which they have given their assent by their representatives in the Council of the Empire. This point was resolutely contended against by the obstinate ministers of an obstinate monarch, when you asserted your independence; but statement of the present day are wiser; the teachings of the last century have not been lost upon them; Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Sir CHARLES GAST have both declared in their places in the House of Commons that they wish "representation and taxation to be co-extensive." This is settled a doctrine which did not originate with either Whig, Tory, or Radical—fort has long been common to all the political creeds of Englishmen. It existed before, and it will long survive all party factions. It has, however, now first received the official sanction in a British Parliament, by a Whig administration. Henceforward we trust it will be enacted in spirit as well as in words, that "our fellow-countrymen in the colonies shall not be governed by laws which have been made without their opinion having been asked, nor shall they pay taxes to which they have not given their assent." If you timid old-fashioned politicians may say: "If you give the colonies their own government, what is the difference between that and declaring them independent?" The difference is great. The colonies do not ask the right to meddle with matters which concern the whole empire. They want to manage the matters which relate to themselves. There is no difficulty in determining what matters belong to the empire, and what to the colony. The federative system, under which the United States have so pre-eminently flourished, is only now beginning to be understood by English legislators; and its adoption, to a certain extent, will work out, in a great measure, the pressing problem of British Colonial Government.

The question is simply this: Is not municipal independence compatible with imperial allegiance? A municipal charter is granted to an English town, certain limits are laid down within which the municipality is quite free to act. It elects its officers, taxes itself, and is responsible to itself. It is quite free within its limits. If it steps beyond these limits it renders itself amenable, not to the Crown, but to the law. So let it be with a colony. The colony wants to do certain acts which affect itself alone, and nobody else; and we trust that the measures now before Parliament will grant it that power. To suppose that colonies possessed of this power will always remain colonies, would be closing our minds to all the teachings of experience. The day will most assuredly arrive when all the British dependencies now in process of being legislated for will feel themselves capable of self and independent government; they will be wise not to claim this position before they can maintain it; and the mother country will be worse than foolish to attempt to deny it to them as soon as and whenever they shall be judged capable of so maintaining it. The contemplated measures are excellent preliminary steps; they will form a good training for, and an expelling of, the final measure; and, valuable as the colonies are at present to the mother country, in a commercial point of view, as we have shown them to be by the table which we have prepared and stated, they will be much more so when they have assumed the position of independent nations. Would the United States have furnished such an array of the commodities which they took from the British looms during 1849, if they had not declared their independence in 1776, and achieved and maintained it? Most assuredly not. As an independent nation and a friendly Power, the United States is of a hundred-fold importance to Great Britain to what they ever could have been as colonial dependencies. So will it be said hereafter of Canada, Australia, and the Cape; and it is a proud feature in British legislation that its present course is to hasten that happy consummation.

We shall not at this time go into the details of Lord JOHN RUSSELL's plan, because, however much the principles which he has stated may be approved, the details will most probably be very much modified during the progress of the measure through Parliament. The Times says "that short of saying 'good-bye' to the colonies altogether, the proposal is as liberal as can well be imagined," and again, the Times says Lord JOHN RUSSELL "does not shrink from contemplating 'the eventual independence of our colonies, and proposes to prepare them for it by free institutions. When a colony feels itself really independent—that is, able to protect its soil, its citizens, its property, and its institutions against all assaults, and to keep order within its own borders—it will undertake to do so to the dignity as well as convenience of 'absolute self-government.' "It is the order of nature, and we cannot fight against it except to our disappointment, loss, and disgrace." The Times closes its articles upon the subject of the colonies with the following striking passage:

"On the subject of Canada, the PREMIER spoke with the loyalty of an Englishman, and the reserve of a minister. We agree with every word that he said. Unless it should become a matter of necessity to each individual Canadian, it certainly is a superfluous and a perilous piece of dissoluty to consent to annexation. No man can tell what he will have to suffer if he takes that fearful leap, and how much the reproaches of conscience may be aggravated by disaster. But from Lord JOHN RUSSELL, and from every other statesman who may hold office in this country, we ask for something more than a mere sentiment on the duty and danger of annexation. We ask for a pledge. Should the day arrive—should an overwhelming majority in Canada declare either for annexation, or for that independence which will infallibly lead to it, we have a right to ask beforehand that our own loyalty may be spared a painful appeal. England has spent 100,000,000 in the vain attempt to subjugate the United States, and she will not do the like again. If Canada chooses to run the fearful risk of causeless separation, let her do so, if not with our consent, at least without our opposition."

One more observation respecting the colonies and we have done, for the present, with the subject. There are great hopes entertained that the scheme of transmitting the mails between England and Australia by the Isthmus of Panama, will be adopted by the Government. The route will be from Panama to Tahiti, and by Cook's Straits, (New Zealand) to Sydney. The length of passage will be reduced by this line just one half. No small consideration this, whether in a commercial, a moral, or a political point of view. With a quick method of getting to the mother country and at a reasonable price, our brethren from the antipodes would more frequently visit Great Britain; emigration of the better classes would be promoted; and greater intercommunication of feelings and interests would be established. We know of nothing, next to a liberal form of colonial government, which would more rapidly promote the progress of Australia, than a facilitated intercourse with the mother country and the old world; and a short cut from the Atlantic to the Pacific would bring with it advantages to the Australian portion of the world which we cannot at present even anticipate. But, from some cause or other, we move very slowly in all matters of this kind. A striking proof that we do so is before us. About eighteen months ago we were first started with the gold discoveries in California. Since then, we have established (we believe) two lines of steamers between New York and Chagres; one between New Orleans and the latter port; and recently we hear of a third line of steamers, of 2,600 tons burden, being started between New York, Savannah, New Orleans, and Chagres. You have besides these, a monthly line of mail steamers between San Francisco and Panama. The whole of these vessels had to be built for the service, and those for the Pacific coast sent round Cape Horn. Now what has Great Britain done in the eighteen months? The Lords of the Admiralty and the Royal Steam-packet Company have "projected" the opening of a direct steam communication with Chagres, touching at St. Thomas. This communication is "proposed" to be kept up by new steamships of between 2,000 and 3,000 tons burden which are "intended" to obtain a regular average speed of at least 12 knots. These ships, it is "stipulated," are to be of superior qualities to those crack ones of the Cunard line, the Niagara and the Europa, which have achieved such wonders in Atlantic steam-riding. But, alas for all this "projecting," "proposing," "intending," and "stipulating," nothing has yet been done! The Niagara and Europa are in successful operation; the Panams and the Chagres, although equally old upon "mens' tongues," have yet to be constructed. But the former vessels have been built by a private commercial house, the latter are to be built by the Government! Does the difference between our proceedings and yours arise from the same cause, or how else are we to account for it? Need we wonder at your success as a people, and your prosperity as a nation, when we see how much you have done, whilst we have been talking about it? When the necessity for new enterprise is apparent to you, you instantly set it to its accomplishment, with energy and determination; whilst we—but it would be painful and ungracious to pursue the parallel.